



Hunting

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Bosque del Apache

Hunting is one of the priority recreational uses on National Wildlife Refuges and compatible with the mission of this refuge. Organized hunting of surplus wildlife species is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the available habitat. Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.

The following information is for the 2015-2016 New Mexico Game and Fish license year. For information please see - <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/> or call: (888) 248-6866.

For additional information on hunting on the refuge please see - http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache/visit/activities/hunt.html or call us at (575) 835-1828 with questions regarding hunting on the refuge.

General Hunting Regulations

These regulations supplement the general regulations that govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

We allow hunting of quail, cottontail rabbits, dove and mule deer with the following regulations:

State and federal hunting regulations regarding methods of take, dates, bag limits, etc., apply to all hunting on the refuge, in addition to refuge specific regulations.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Federal law prohibits possession of firearms and other dangerous weapons in refuge buildings. Violators are subject to fine and or imprisonment under 18 USC 930 (a) and (b).

Hunting of species not expressly mentioned is prohibited.

No canoeing, boating, or floating is allowed in the refuge.

Hunting dogs may be used to retrieve game, but must be kept on a leash when not hunting.

Light Goose (snow geese, blue phase snow, and Ross's geese) and Youth Turkey hunting opportunities are available through an application process.

Applications for the Light Goose and Youth Turkey Permit Hunts are only available at -www.bdanwrpermits.com.

Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

This is a high quality facilitated hunting opportunity for hunters under 18 years of age. The hunt provides a unique opportunity to experience the excitement of hunting this wary and challenging native species of New Mexico. The goal of the hunt is more than just harvesting a bird. The hunt focuses on teaching young hunters safe and ethical hunting practices and the art of setting up blinds, decoys, and calling turkeys. All hunters must be accompanied by a parent / legal guardian. A \$6 application fee will be charged.

2016 Youth Spring Turkey Hunt Dates:

Hunt 1: April 9-10, 2016

Hunt 2: April 16-17, 2016

Hunt 3: April 23-24, 2016

Hunt 4: April 30-May 1, 2016

Hunt 5: May 7-8, 2016

2017 hunt dates have not yet been set but will be similar to the 2016 dates.

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Light Goose Hunting

Online applications for the 2015-16 light goose season closed December 8th, 2015. 2016-17 hunt dates have not yet been set, however they are projected to be similar to those in 2016. All hunters must have a New Mexico hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp and a Light Goose Conservation Order Permit from New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Non-toxic shotgun shells are required for all goose hunting.

A \$6 application fee will be charged.

2015-16 General Light Goose Hunt Dates:

December 14, 16, and 18th, 2015

January 18, 20, and 22nd, 2016

Big Game Hunting

Mule Deer Hunts

Hunting for mule deer is permitted during appropriate state hunting seasons. Areas open for mule deer include the following:

West Side - Mule Deer:

Primitive weapons -- State Highway 1 to west refuge boundary, with the exception of Unit 3 and those areas closed to hunting (see map).

Modern firearms -- Power line to west boundary. Enter via Gravel Pit Road or the Chupadera National Recreation Trail. We only allow travel by foot in this hunt area, which is located inside the boundary of Bosque del Apache Wilderness Area.

East Side - Mule Deer:

All legal weapons -- Rio Grande to the east boundary. East side travel is only by foot, horseback, or bicycle. Bicycling is only allowed on established service roads. The easiest entry point is the gate at the end of Guadalajara Road. From San Antonio, travel east on Highway 380, turn right onto San Pedro Road and travel south, turn left on Guadalajara Road and travel to the end of the road.

Park near the walk-through horse gate leading into the refuge, but do not block access to the service road or the gate.

Oryx (African Gemsbok) Hunts

We allow oryx hunting from the east bank of the Rio Grande to the east boundary of the refuge. We allow hunters possessing a valid State of New Mexico, special off-range permit to hunt oryx on the refuge September 1 to January 31. East side travel is only by foot, horseback or bicycle. Bicycling is only allowed on established service roads.

The easiest entry point is the gate at the end of Guadalajara Road. From San Antonio, travel east on Highway 380, turn right onto San Pedro Road and travel south, turn left on Guadalajara Road and travel to the end of the road.

Park near the walk-through horse gate leading into the refuge, but do not block access to the service road or the gate.

Small Game Hunting

Hunting for quail, cottontail rabbit, and dove is allowed in specific areas, during concurrent state designated hunting seasons. Non-toxic shotgun shells are required for all small game hunting.

West Side - Small Game:

Areas open for small game hunting are State Highway 1 to west refuge boundary, with the exception of Unit 3 and those areas closed to hunting (see map). Look for signs in this area. No hunting within ½ mile of developed areas, including the Refuge Visitor Center and Headquarters area, maintenance areas, Volunteer RV Village. We only allow travel by foot in this hunt area.

East Side - Small Game:

The east side is open to small game hunting from the Rio Grande to the east boundary. East side travel is only by foot, horseback or bicycle. Bicycling is only allowed on established service roads. The easiest entry point is the gate at the end of Guadalajara Road. From San Antonio, travel east on Highway 380, turn right onto San Pedro Road and travel south, turn left on Guadalajara Road and travel to the end of the road.

Park near the walk-through horse gate leading into the refuge, but do not block access to the service road or the gate.

Watch Out

This desert area can be dangerously hot and dry. Be sure to carry and drink plenty of water and use sunscreen. Watch out for stinging insects, venomous snakes, puma and thorny plants.

For more information contact:

Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 280
San Antonio, NM 87832
575/835-1828
575/835-0314 FAX
Hunting Program Coordinator:
daniel_weigand@fws.gov